

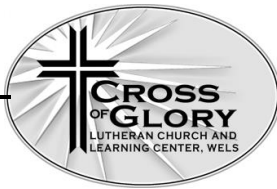


An
Order
for the
Easter
Vigil

Holy Saturday

March 26th, in the year of our Lord 2016

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church



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SERVICE NOTES

The Day: In the early church, the Saturday of Holy Week was called the “Great Sabbath.” It was a day of meditation, fasting, and reflection in preparation for Easter. The Easter Vigil has been celebrated regularly since the days of Constantine the Great (300 A.D.).

The Service: It is called a “vigil” because it is a service of watching and waiting, using prayer, Scripture, and hymns. It is composed of four parts: The service of light, the service of lessons, the service of baptism, and the service of Holy Communion.

The Vigil remembers the great Passover of God. On the night when the 10th plague, the plague of the firstborn, struck the land of Egypt, God promised to deliver all his people whose doors were marked by the blood of a Passover lamb. God’s judgment would pass over them. Centuries later, God fulfilled that first Passover, with the sacrifice of the Lamb of God during the Passover feast. Now we are assured that because of the blood of that Lamb, God’s judgment passes over us.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

***The congregation assembles outside in silence. All are given candles as they arrive.
In the darkness a fire is burning.***

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

M: O God, you are like a refiner’s fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we ask you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival. Burning with desire for life with you, may we be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end,

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The candle bearer, holding the paschal candle, steps forward. The minister traces the cross and the Greek letters Α and Ω (Alpha and Omega) upon it, saying:

M: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

The minister traces the year upon the candle, saying:

M: His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion now and forever.

The minister puts the five brass nails representing the five wounds of Christ into the candle, saying:

M: By his wounds we are healed now and forever. Amen.

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, the minister says:

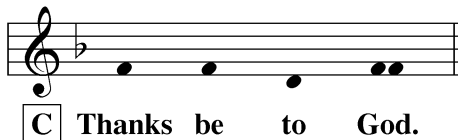
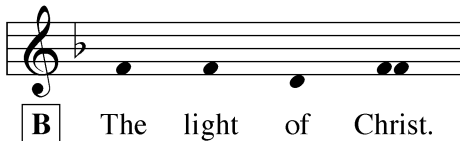
M: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

M: Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this night in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

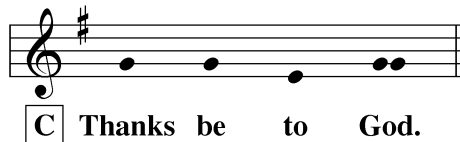
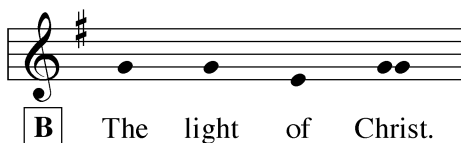
C: **Amen.**

All light their candles from the paschal candle. Then, the paschal candle held aloft by the candle bearer, all follow in procession to the dark church.

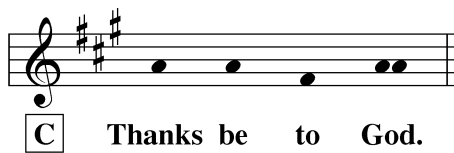
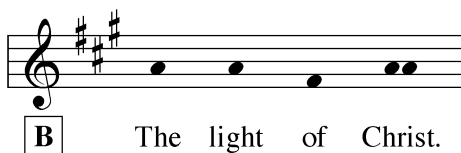
At the entrance of the building, the candle bearer pauses and sings:



At the doors of the nave, the candle bearer pauses and sings a second time:



When the candle bearer arrives before the altar, he faces the congregation, lifts the candle high, and sings a third time:



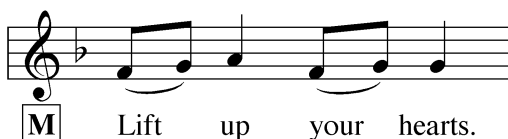
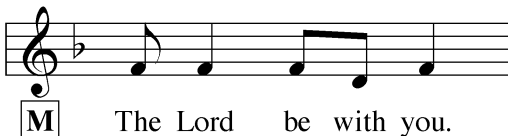
EXSULTET¹

The candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand in the center of the chancel. Standing in its light, the minister sings:

M: *Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.*

Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.

Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.



¹ *Exsultet* is the opening word in Latin of the ancient Easter Proclamation. This text has been used by the Church from between the 5th and 7th century. It is a truly magnificent text and its chanting at the Easter Vigil provides a high point of the church's Easter celebration.



C We lift them up to the Lord.



M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: *It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places, with all our hearts and minds and voices, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, and your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.*

For he is the true Paschal Lamb, who offered himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood.

This is the night when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground.

This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.

This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is this night when man is reconciled to God in Christ.

Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise.

Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

SERVICE OF LESSONS²

The congregation extinguishes its candles. The nave is dimly lit.

M: On this most holy night, our Savior Christ the Lord broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word. The sun of righteousness has dawned on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA: EXODUS 14:10-15:1

M: Let us pray.

O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharoah and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise, that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to make them children of Abraham, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL: ISAIAH 55:1-11

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you created and sustain all things by the power of your Word. You send forth your Spirit to renew your creation. Give your saving water of life to all who thirst, that they may bear much fruit in your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT: EZEKIEL 36:24-28

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter you raised your Son for our justification and through him have given us a new heart and spirit. Give power to your holy people to show in their lives what they confess with their lips, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

² In the ancient church, the lessons served as the final instruction for new believers about to be baptized. In those days, the series of lessons extended all through the night until dawn the next day! Over time, the readings were reduced significantly. Tonight we will have four readings.

FAITH STRAINED BUT VICTORIOUS: JOB 19:20-27

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son, you brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life. Give your servants patience and endurance that, looking in faith to your Son, we may see beyond the trials of this life to the joys of the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ANTHEM: COME, PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING

During the anthem, the paschal candle is carried to the font.

*1. Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.*

REFRAIN

*Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ,
rejoice!*

*2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.*

*3. Come, young and old from every land -
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands -
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing -
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
"Our God is all in all"!*

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM³

M: On this holiest of days, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

STAND

M: In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

C: **Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

M: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

³ The paschal candle is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. Lit during the Easter Vigil, it remains burning through the 50 days of Easter. Then it is lit at every baptism and every funeral as a reminder of Christ’s resurrection.

- C:** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- M:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- C:** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- M:** Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?
- C:** Yes, and I ask God to help me.
- M:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.
- C:** Amen.

The paschal candle is dipped in the water of the baptismal font as a sign of Christ's death and resurrection, which gives baptism its power and is returned to its stand.



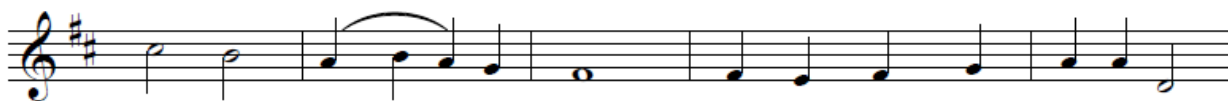
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The altar candles are now lit from the paschal candle. The chancel is dressed with Easter paraments and banners. The lights of the church are fully lit as the congregation sings:

HYMN: AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING (CHRISTIAN WORSHIP #141)



1 At the Lamb's high feast _____ we sing Praise to
2 Might- y Vic- tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
3 Now no more can death _____ ap- pall, Now no
4 Eas- ter tri- umph, Eas- _____ ter joy! This a-
5 Fa- ther, who the crown _____ shall give, Sa- vior,



our vic- to- _____ rious king, Who has washed us in the tide
pow'rs be- neath - you lie. You have con- quered in the fight;
more the grave _____ en- thrall; You have o- pened par- a- dise,
lone can sin _____ de- stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
by whose death _____ we live, Spir- it, guide through all our days,



Flow- ing from his pierc- ed side. Al- le- lu- ia!
You have brought us life and light. Al- le- lu- ia!
And your saints in you shall rise. Al- le- lu- ia!
New- born souls in you to be. Al- le- lu- ia!
Three in One, your name we praise. Al- le- lu- ia!

Bells are rung and the minister proclaims:

M: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

The minister introduces the refrain and then the congregation joins to sing:



VERSE OF THE DAY

M: For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

C: **Refrain**

THE EASTER GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-18

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

C: **Refrain**

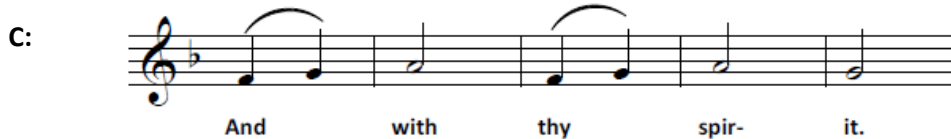
PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all your people the Spirit of adoption which you have given, that they may serve you in faith and joy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.

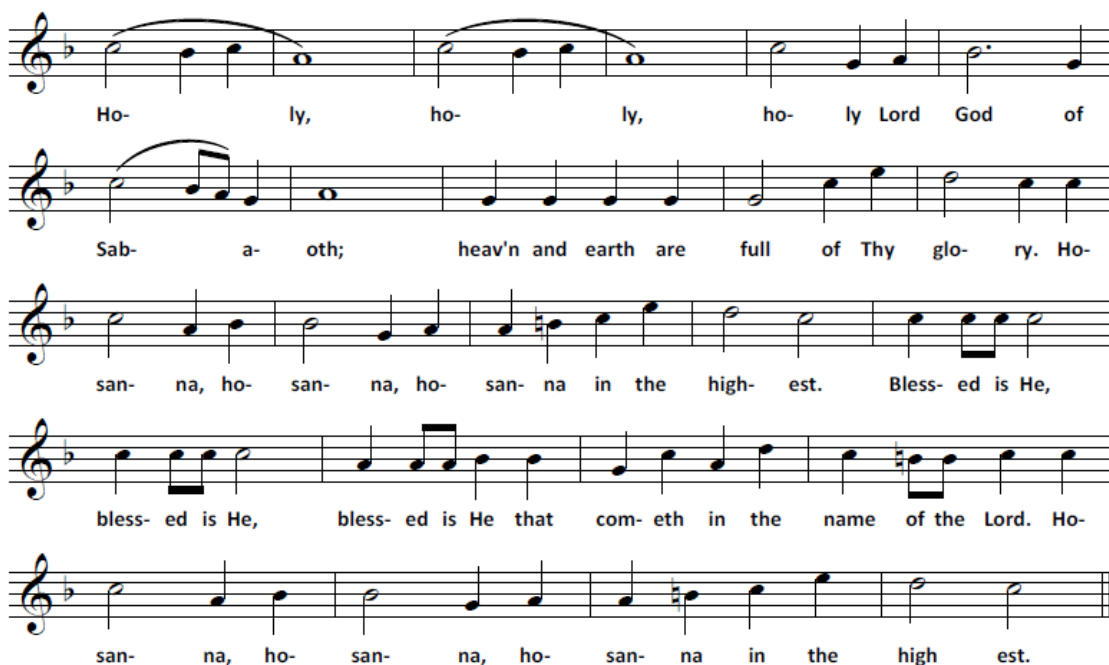


M: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



M: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



The hymn is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord God of
Sab- a- oth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo- ry. Ho-
san- na, ho- san- na, ho- san- na in the high- est. Bless- ed is He,
bless- ed is He, bless- ed is He that com- eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san- na, ho- san- na, ho- san- na in the high est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

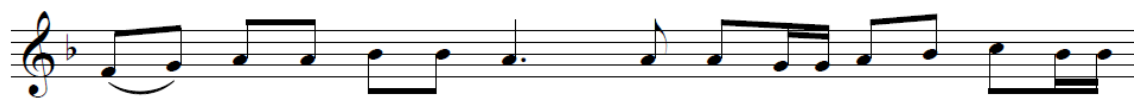
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, he brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink, ye all, of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LAMB OF GOD



O _____ Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak est a way the sin of the



world: have mer cy u pon us. O _____ Christ, thou Lamb of



God, that tak est a way the sin of the world; have mer cy u



pon us. O _____ Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak est a



way the sin of the world; grant us thy peace. A _____ men.



DISTRIBUTION

Following the distribution, the congregation sings "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"
(Christian Worship # 145)



1. Je sus lives! The vic t'ry's won! Death no long er can ap pall me.
2. Je sus lives! To him the thronge High o'er heav'n and earth is giv en.
3. Je sus lives! And now is death But the gate to life im mor tal;



Je sus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will re call me.
I shall go where he is gone, Live and reign with him in heav en.
This shall calm my trem bling breath When I pass its gloom y por tal.



Bright er scenes then will com mence; This shall be my con fi dence.
God is faith ful; doubt ings hence! This shall be my con fi dence.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: "Je sus is my con fi dence.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We thank you, Lord, that you have nourished us with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with your Spirit, the Spirit of your love, that those whom you have satisfied with one heavenly bread may be united in one holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SONG OF DEPARTURE



1 Lord, let your ser- vant now de- part. Your peace and joy are in my
2 Lord, let us show the world your light. Let us de- clare your glo- ry



heart. Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Your sav- ing pow'r my eyes have
bright. Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Pro- claim your death un- til you



known. Your love through- out the world is shown. Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le-
come To take your ran- somed ser- vants home. Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le-



lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia!
lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia!

BLESSING

M: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, (+) to whom be glory for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

M: Let us go in peace.

It is traditional to take home the candles from the Easter Vigil and use them on the table for Easter dinner and as long as they last during the fifty days of the great Easter feast.